

What is claim d is:

1. A gaming machine comprising:

(a) variable display means for varyingly displaying a  
5 plurality of symbols;

(b) lottery means for executing a lottery for a prize  
pattern;

(c) stop control means for controlling and stopping the  
variable display means;

10 (d) stop control selection means for selecting a control  
type of the stop control means based on a result of the  
lottery;

(e) shielding means for shielding a view of the variable  
display means, the shielding means being disposed in front  
15 of the variable display means; and

(f) shielding control means for controlling the  
shielding means to be in either state that a player can  
see the symbols or that a player cannot see the symbols  
based on the control type selected by the stop control  
20 selection means.

2. The gaming machine according to Claim 1,  
wherein the shielding means comprises an electronic  
shutter.

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3. The gaming machine according to Claim 1,  
further comprising special game control means for causing

a special gaming state that is advantageous to the player under a predetermined condition,

wherein the shielding control means controls the shielding means during the special gaming state.

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4. The gaming machine according to Claim 3, wherein the shielding means comprises an electronic shutter.

10 5. A gaming machine having a display device comprising:

(a) a substantially transparent panel disposed on the display device;

15 (b) an image display device for displaying an image, the image display device being provided behind the panel, so as to show the image visibly through the panel;

(c) a shutter being disposed behind the image display device; and

20 (d) a variable display device for displaying symbols varyingly, the variable display device being provided behind the shutter such that at least a portion of the symbols is shielded by the shutter,

25 wherein the shutter is controlled such that the portion of the symbols is shielded or shown through the panel based on a control by a player.

6. The gaming machine according to Claim 5,

wherein the shutter comprises an electronic shutter.

7. The gaming machine according to Claim 5,  
wherein the shutter is formed in a substantially flat  
5 shape; and

wherein the shutter comprises at least a  
substantially transparent portion such that another  
portion of the symbol behind the shutter is not shielded  
by the shutter.

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8. The gaming machine according to Claim 5,  
wherein the image display device comprises a liquid  
crystal display.

15 9. The gaming machine according to Claim 5, the  
gaming machine comprising a light being disposed behind  
the shutter such that the symbol is illuminated.

10. The gaming machine according to Claim 5,  
20 wherein the variable display device comprises a reel;  
and

wherein the reel has a plurality of symbols on an  
outer peripheral surface thereof.